GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1705
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Timely Appointment of CICs
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that incumbent Chief Information Commissioners (CICs) have on two occasions since 2014 retired from their post without a replacement being selected;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that this adversely affects the functioning of the Chief Information Commission and adds to the pendency of complaints before it;

(c) if so, the steps by the Government has taken to ensure timely selection of persons to fill up positions such as that of the Chief Information Commissioner; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that suitable persons are selected before the date on which the incumbent retires, so that they can immediately take charge of responsibilities?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)
(a) to (d): The post of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) in the Central Information Commission fell vacant on 23.08.2014 and Shri Vijai Sharma was appointed the CIC on 10.06.2015. Thereafter, the post of CIC fell vacant on 02.12.2015. Shri R.K. Mathur, the current CIC, has taken over charge of the post w.e.f. 04.01.2016.
As per information furnished by CIC, the number of appeals / complaints disposed off by the Central Information Commission in 2015-16 is 28188 as against 20181 in 2014-15, indicating an improved performance over the previous year.
The Government makes appointment to the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners by selecting suitable persons, as per provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, by following due procedure.
With the appointment of three new ICs on 25.02.2016, the CIC, at present, is working in its full strength i.e. with one Chief Information Commissioner and 10 Information Commissioners (ICs).

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